

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANTANA 01318 191430Z
ACTION AF-10

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TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY
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UNCLAS ANTANANARIVO 1318

FOR: IAA, IOR/M, IBS AND IPS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MPOL, MA
SUBJECT: AMERICAN POSITION ON INDIAN OCEAN REPORTED

1. AFTER HAVING REPORTED IN EALIER EDITIONS SOVIET POSITION ON INDIAN OCEAN, FRENCH LANGUAGE DAILY "MADAGASCAR MATIN" PUBLISHED U.S. POSITION IN ITS SATURDAY, JULY 16, EDITION. UNDER HEADLINE ON INTERNATIONAL PAGE "DEMILITARIZED INDIAN OCEAN: THE AMERICAN VIEWPOINT", PAPER PRINTED CHARGE D'AFFAIRES COMMUNICATION. THREE-COLUMN REPORT DESCRIBED BACKGROUND OF ISSUE, CITING BRITISH WITHDRAWAL OF FORCES AND UNGA 1971 VOTE ON NEED TO DISCUSS WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN FORECES IN AREA. ARTICLE EXPLAINED THAT DURING THAT PERIOD, "...THE SOVIET UNION - WHICH TEN YEARS BEFORE (HAD NOT BEEN INTERESTED) IN THE REGION..." SET UP A PERMANENT NAVAL INSTALLATION AT BERBERA.
2. STORY CITED U.S. POSITION THAT ITS INTERESTS PRECLUDED DOMINATION IN REGION BY ANY FOREIGN POWER, AND NOTED THAT "THE COUNTRIES BORDERING THE INDIAN OCEAN HAVE IN PUBLIC AND IN PRIVATE EXPRESSED A SIMILAR POINT OF VIEW."
3. HOWEVER, ARTICLE EXPLAINED THAT FACTORS OTHER THAN

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MILITARY FIGURED REASONS FOR U.S. AND SOVIET PRESENCE IN REGION. IT THEN ENUMERATED THEM: NEED FOR FREE ACCESS TO THIS IMPORTANT PETROL ROUTE; SOUTHERN AFRICAN POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS; MIDDLE EAST RELATIONSHIPS.

4. ARTICLE CONCLUDED THAT THESE AND OTHER PROBLEMS

MUST BE ADDRESSED AT CURRENT MOSCOW CONFERENCE IN
ORDER TO ARRIVE AT "AS PRESIDENT CARTER CALLS IT, THE
COMPLETE DEMILITARIZATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN".
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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